

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2003

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 964**

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**Introduced by Senator Burton**

February 21, 2003

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An act to add Section 60852.5 to the Education Code, relating to the high school exit examination.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 964, as amended, Burton. High school exit examination.

Existing law requires, commencing with the 2003–04 school year, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school.

This bill would require that passage of the high school exit examination may not, until March 1, 2007, be used for the above purposes with respect to a pupil who is an individual with exceptional needs. The bill would authorize the use of the high school exit examination for the above purposes after March 1, 2007, for those pupils only if the Superintendent of Public Instruction demonstrates by impartial and specific evidence specified conditions. The bill would permit the high school exit examination to only be given on a voluntary basis to individuals with exceptional needs until the superintendent has met all of the specified conditions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 60852.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

60852.5. (a) Notwithstanding Section 60851, a pupil who is an individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026, may not be required to pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school until March 1, 2007. After March 1, 2007, the high school exit examination may be used for these purposes with respect to those pupils only if the Superintendent of Public Instruction demonstrates by impartial and specific evidence all of the following:

(1) The high school exit examination has both instructional and curricular validity for individuals with exceptional needs.

(2) The individualized education programs of individuals with exceptional needs, as developed pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 56340) of Chapter 4 of Part 30, have been aligned, both with the curriculum and with the skills and knowledge that the high school exit examination is designed to measure.

(3) The state has in place alternate methods of assessment, other than the high school exit examination or standardized tests, for those individuals with exceptional needs that cannot be fairly evaluated on standardized tests. *An individual with exceptional needs that passes an alternate assessment to the high school exit examination is entitled to a regular high school diploma if the pupil otherwise meets the requirements for graduation from high school.*

(4) A reasonable accommodations policy for individuals with exceptional needs in taking the high school exit examination is in place, which allows the pupils to use, without invalidating their test scores, those reasonable accommodations set forth in their individualized education programs.

(b) Until all of the conditions set forth in subdivision (a) have been met by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the high school exit examination shall only be given on a voluntary basis to individuals with exceptional needs.

1 (c) For the purposes of this section, “accommodations,”  
2 “curricular validity,” and “instructional validity” have the  
3 meanings set forth in subdivision (f) of Section 60850.

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